amnesty international

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SGO/AB/ms

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Salem Azzam
Secretary General
Islamic Council of Europe
16 Grosvenor Crescent
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Dear Mr Azzam

Thank you for your letter of 22 October. Amnesty International has, of course, noted the detention of Dr Necmettin Erbakan and other members of the National Salvation Party and the charges which have been brought against them.

We have, in the past, adopted as prisoners of conscience people in Turkey sentenced under Article 163 of the Turkish Penal Code and if we are satisfied that Dr Erbakan and his colleagues are imprisoned for no other reason than advocating their religious beliefs, we will certainly intervene on their behalf.

Yours sincerely

Thomas Hammarberg
Secretary General

Amnesty International is a worldwide human rights movement which works impartially for the release of prisoners of conscience: men and women detained anywhere for their beliefs, colour, ethnic origin, sex, religion or language, provided they have neither used nor advocated violence. Amnesty International opposes torture and the death penalty in all cases without reservation and advocates fair and prompt trials for all political prisoners. Amnesty International is independent of all governments, political factions, ideologies, economic interests and religious creeds. It is financed by its membership and by subscriptions from all parts of the world. Amnesty International has consultative status with the United Nations (ECOSOC), UNESCO and the Council of Europe, has cooperative relations with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of American States, and has observer status with the Organization of African Unity (Bureau for the Placement and Education of African Refugees).